

# OTTAWA THE CAPITAL

BY  
JAMES KINNIBURGH



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STATUE OF SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN,  
NEPEAN POINT, OTTAWA

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# OTTAWA THE CAPITAL

*By*  
JAMES KINNIBURGH



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DEDICATION  
TO  
MY AUNT  
(MRS. MALCOLM ALLAN)  
“ HER CHILDREN ARISE UP AND CALL HER BLESSED ”

# OTTAWA THE CAPITAL

## CHAPTER I

THE road goes up from the bank of the St. Lawrence River towards the north. Its course is in long, flat stretches with occasional deviations to either side but always bearing in the same direction. The fields on both sides are under cultivation and the cattle and farm houses give evidence of a people gaining a living from the soil. As it continues, the view to the east and west is often broken by the stretches of trees which also indicate the richness of the country. For some distance it continues "*through forest and fertile field*" and a pleasing sight is gained of the Rideau River. The habitations of the people seem to grow more modern and tourist camps become evident on the journey. Then from the distance above the tree-tops a glimpse is obtained of distant spires and the road turns down an avenue and thus enters the modern city of Ottawa.

Over three hundred years have passed since the first white man explored the region. This was Samuel de Champlain, who came up the Ottawa River in the year 1613 and looked upon the site of the present capital of Canada. He was a native of Brouage in France and in his early days saw military service but later took to the sea and at thirty-one years of age was captain of a Spanish trading vessel. He sailed to South America and was the first to suggest the cutting of the Panama Canal, an undertaking that was not accomplished until about three centuries later. He must have been a man of considerable education, for besides being a soldier and a sailor, he was a writer and an explorer. It was also this celebrated man who founded Quebec.

On his journey up the Ottawa River he saw a waterfall near the place where the city of Ottawa now stands and its appearance suggested a curtain and thus he called it the "rideau" being so named in his own language, and this term still is applied to the river which is a tributary of the Ottawa. His statue stands at Nepean Point a little further up the Ottawa from the Rideau, and he is shown holding an astrolabe in his right hand, which instrument was in his day used for scientific purposes. On his journey in this region the astrolabe was lost, but strangely enough was found under a log by a boy about two hundred and fifty years later, and is presently one of a private collection in United States of America, which is perhaps to be regretted for it should be treasured in the Archives of Canada.

Although the first explorations were made by Champlain in the early part of the seventeenth century, it was not until about the end of the eighteenth century that a settlement was made in this region of the Ottawa. This was accomplished by a man named Philemon Wright, who came from Massachusetts and who established himself on the Quebec side of the river opposite the modern city of Ottawa, where the city of Hull is now located. He was a citizen of the then new republic of United States of America, and had as a young man served on the side of the colonists at the battle of Bunker Hill, but evidently decided to look for new pastures, for he was a farmer, and made three excursions to the place where he finally settled. The great lumber business which still thrives on the Ottawa had its beginning with his labours, and he has been thus named "*The Father of the Ottawa*". One of Wright's employees was a man named Nicholas Sparks, and he made a purchase of a considerable portion of land across the river from Hull, and was later able to sell this as that section became valuable when it was decided to construct the Rideau Canal. The name of this pioneer still survives in Nicholas Street and Sparks Street in the city. It was the result of the decision by the British Government to construct the Rideau Canal that laid the foundations of the present city, and with this project is



associated the name of Lieutenant-Colonel John By who was commissioned to undertake the work. He was a native of St. Mary Lambeth and his family had been connected with the Custom House, London, where his grandfather, John By, was for a time in the capacity of Chief Searcher. The future founder of Ottawa was born in 1779 and followed a military career, commencing at the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich, gaining his commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery in the year 1799. Subsequently he transferred to the Royal Engineers, and obtained various ranks, reaching that finally of Lieutenant-Colonel. He served in Portugal in the year 1811, and was present at Badajos. Later he was recalled and was placed in charge of Faversham, Purfleet and Walsham Abbey.

During the War of 1812, it was found to be extremely difficult to protect the supplies brought to the Province of Upper Canada, now called Ontario, and it was decided to construct a canal from the Ottawa River down to Lake Ontario so that stores and men might be conveyed without danger of attack from the American side. The work was delegated to Colonel By, who proceeded to survey plans and systems furnished by the Home Government, and he was directed to proceed without the usual grants of money. He commenced his work on the Ottawa River at a point between Chaudiere Falls and the mouth of the Rideau River. The area in this part was divided into lots to form a village which became known as Bytown. The Colonel made his headquarters there and had a house built on the place now known as Major's Hill Park. A number of sappers and miners of the Royal Engineers were also sent to be employed in this work of constructing the canal, and they also built barracks on the site now occupied by the Parliament Buildings of Canada. This was known as Barracks Hill, and a sun-dial was placed there which has since been replaced by another on which appears an inscription to the effect that it occupies the same position.

The original report to the War Office gave an estimate of the proposed cost, but as his work proceeded it was found

that the original amount was not sufficient, and as a result of this, Colonel By was strongly criticized by the Government. He was ordered to return, and it was of course acknowledged that the work was conducted very efficiently, but a strong expression was made regarding what was considered as an excessive cost. It must be acknowledged that the work was in no sense extravagant and By considered himself unjustly treated. The difficulty which he must have encountered can scarcely be appreciated to-day, for it was without any mechanical means which would be utilized if a canal were constructed in modern times. He laid the foundation of a great City and a number of memorials still survive there.

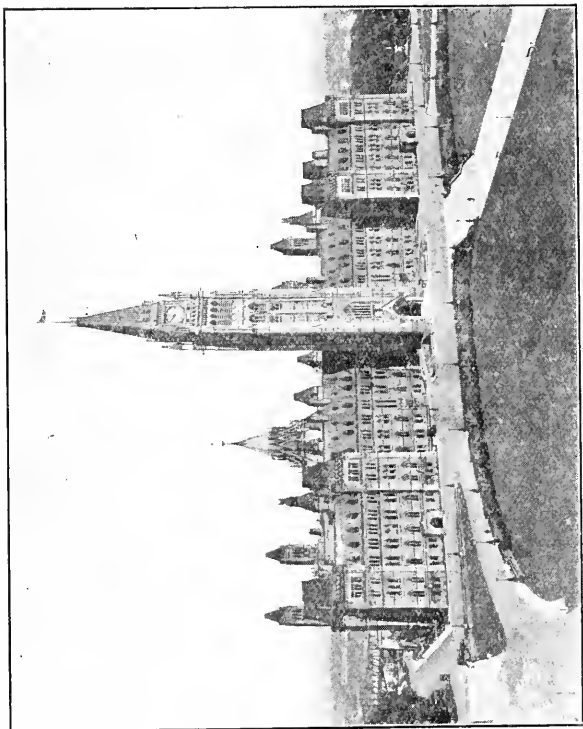
A bridge had been built across the Canal, called Sapper's Bridge, and an impressive structure now spans the same place. On one of the pillars of the present bridge there is a bronze tablet which commemorates the One Hundredth Anniversary of the construction of the Canal. Two stones are also to be seen in Major's Hill Park which were taken from the arch of the Sapper's Bridge, and a memorial tablet is also placed upon one of these stones recording this fact. A great granite block has been placed on the bank of the Canal near the Bridge on which appears an inscription, stating that this man founded the Capital of the Dominion of Canada. He died on February 1st, 1836, on his estate near Frant in the County of Sussex, and is buried there. He is perhaps little known, even throughout the Dominion of Canada, but his great works rank him surely as an Empire Builder.

## CHAPTER II

THE selection of this city as the Capital of Canada recalls a period when there was a measure of unrest in the Dominion, for there was considerable rivalry amongst the various cities for this national honour. It was, however, decided to refer the matter to Queen Victoria, and doubtless her decision was inspired by the governor-general of that day. Thus it was that Bytown was selected and the name changed to Ottawa, which latter is an Indian name and was borne by a tribe of Indians in that region; the name was also applied to the river which flows there.

The position of Ottawa is eminently suitable for it is on the natural border between Ontario and Quebec. The latter Province is almost entirely French, and the contact between the two races is thus admirably solved. It was in the year 1857 that the choice was made, and immediately steps were taken to erect the Parliament Buildings on what is now Parliament Hill. The buildings which originally stood there were demolished and the erection of the Parliament buildings commenced. In the year 1859 Queen Victoria's son, the Prince of Wales, laid the memorial stone. The buildings also included a library. In the year 1916 they were destroyed by fire with the exception of the library, which was fortunately preserved. The stone which the Prince of Wales laid in the year 1859 was re-laid by his brother, the Duke of Connaught, and may yet be seen at the north-east corner of the buildings, with a further inscription added on being laid the second time.

The present buildings were immediately commenced after the great fire, and face south towards Wellington Street. Two separate wings, one to the east and one to the west accommodate various government offices. Contrasting



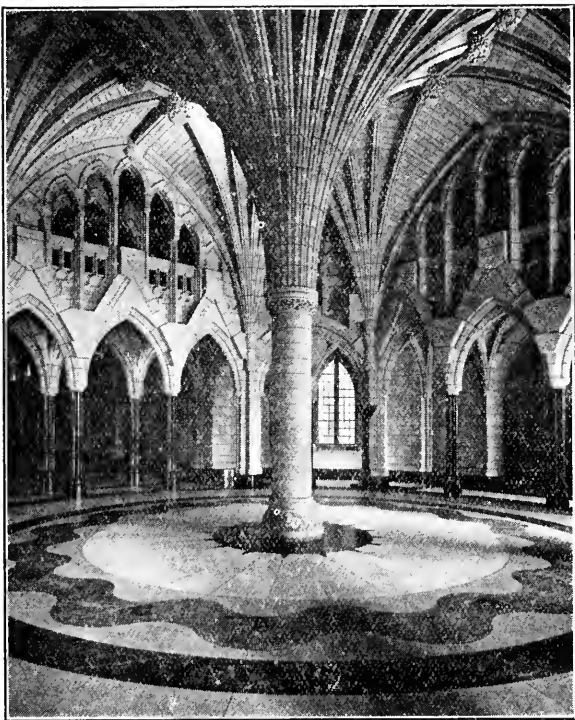
HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT, OTTAWA

with the background, the red coat of the Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman on duty, always arrests the eye.

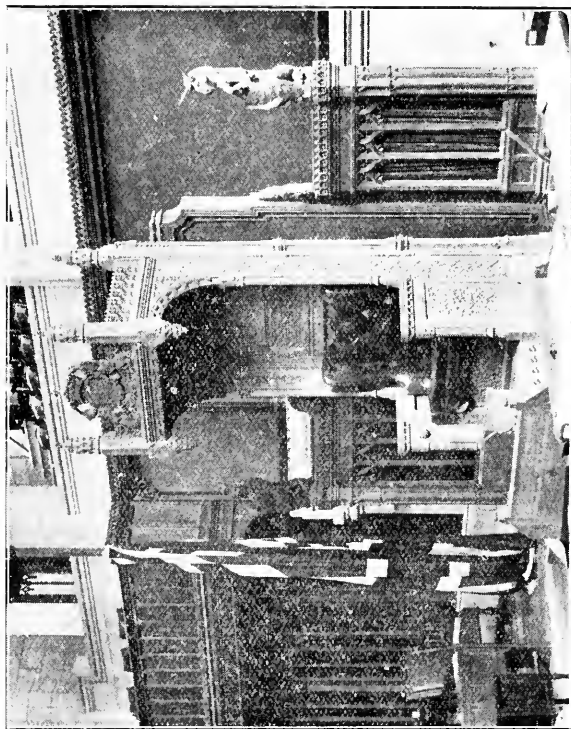
A great tower divides the view of the main buildings into two equal parts, this being termed the Peace Tower. Entrance is obtained through the Peace Tower, and above the arch is an inscription which reads: "The wholesome sea is at her gates, her gates both east and west". This leads immediately into Confederation Hall. In the centre of this Hall is a great pillar at the base of which is a carving representing the waves of the sea, from which Father Neptune may be seen arising, and also figures of dolphins and sea-lions.

The term confederation dates from the year 1867, when Canada became self-governing, and the pillar and hall are to commemorate this historic event, for it was set there in the year 1917, the Jubilee year of Confederation. Two inscriptions are on this pillar, one in English and the other in French, which give this detail. The pillar rises and branches out into a series of arches, and is symbolic of Britain rising from the sea and supporting all overseas dominions. It is set in black tiling, which takes the form of the sixteen points of the compass representing Britain's contact with all parts of the earth. A great circle some feet beyond this completely surrounding the pillar, takes the form of waves, and is symbolic of Britain's commerce on the Seven Seas.

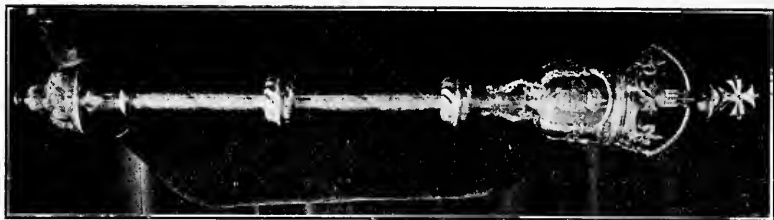
The parliament is composed of two chambers: the Commons, which are elected representatives of the people; and the Senate, which corresponds to the House of Lords in Britain. The Senators in this latter chamber are appointed for life, and take office as appointed by the Government then in office. In the Commons chamber the upholstering is green, and follows largely the plan of the Imperial Parliament. The Speaker's Chair is a replica of the chair in Westminster and was presented by the United Kingdom Branch of the British Empire Parliamentary Association. The coat-of-arms upon the canopy is made from one of the rafters obtained from St. Stephen's.



CONFEDERATION HALL, HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT,  
OTTAWA



THE SPEAKER'S CHAIR, HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA



THE MACE, HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA

The mace in the House of Commons was presented in the year 1916 after the original one was destroyed by the fire. This is modelled like the old one after the pattern of the mace in London, and is made of silver covered with heavy gilt. The head is divided into four panels upon which are embossed the Thistle of Scotland, the Rose of England, the Harp of Ireland, and the Arms of Canada. Above is the royal crown and "G.R.", and the foot is decorated with thistle, rose and fleur-de-lys.

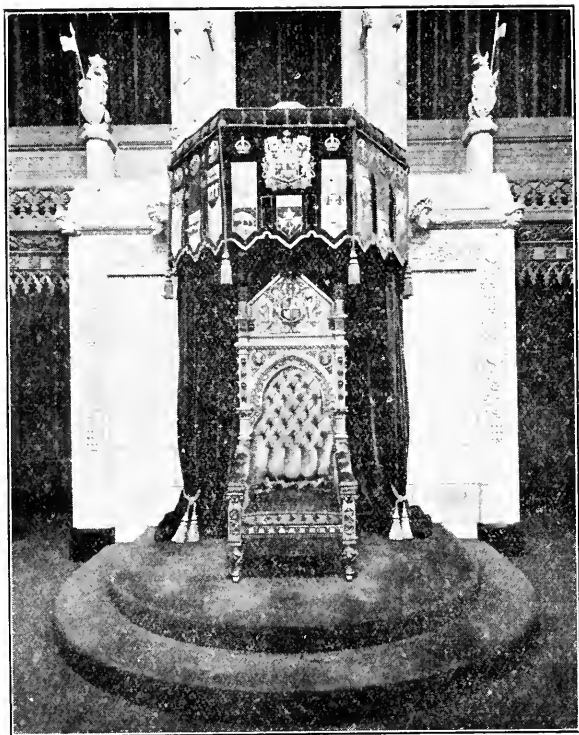
An inscription upon the mace reads thus :—

"This mace replacing the original mace of the House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada destroyed by fire on February 3rd, 1916, was presented by Colonel the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Creers Wakefield, Lord Mayor of London, and the sheriffs of London, George Alexander Touche Esq., M.P. and Samuel George Shead Esq., June 1916."

Passing through the Hall of Fame, there are two memorials, one commemorating the development of nursing services in Canada, and the other the gift of Canadians in the United States of America shows the development of industry from the landing of Jacques Cartier until the present date.

The library building which escaped destruction during the fire contains about one-half million volumes, and the floor is the only part that suffered due to flooding with water when the main buildings were destroyed. In the centre of this is a statue of Queen Victoria, and there are





THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S THRONE,  
SENATE CHAMBER, OTTAWA

also two busts, one of her son the Prince of Wales, and one of his wife, the Princess who became Queen Alexandra.

Sometimes the Senate is described as the 'red chamber' due to the colour of the upholstering, and it is here bills are revised and passed or rejected as may be. The throne upon which the Governor General sits at the opening of Parliament, is surmounted by a canopy from which are hung nine banners, each having the coat-of-arms of one of the Canadian Provinces. A great feature of the buildings is the Peace Tower. The memorial stone of this was laid by the Prince of Wales on the first day of September, 1919, and has a chronogram indicating the year it was laid. Three great windows in the tower give light to the War Memorial Chamber which is built within the tower, on the exterior of which is an inscription over each of these windows. To the south it reads: "Give the King Thy Judgments O God and Thy Righteousness unto the King's Son"; to the east: "He shall have Dominion also from Sea to Sea"; and to the west it reads: "Where there is no vision the people perish". The tower also contains a carillon of bells which were installed and dedicated at the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation on the first day of July, 1927. This is a series of fifty-three bells, the lightest of which weighs ten pounds and the heaviest, ten tons. This latter bell is tuned to the same note as Big Ben in London, England, and is thus symbolic of the harmony which makes the British Empire possible.

A magnificent view is obtained from the top of the tower. Towards the east may be seen the distant hills of Quebec. Beneath, the Ottawa River flows and is met by the Gatineau River from the east, and from the west by the Rideau River. From the other sides of the tower may be seen the vast expanses that are typical of Canada. When Peter the Great, Emperor of Russia, founded his capital of Petersburg on the River Neva, he said he wanted to make "A window looking out into Europe," and surely also the view from the tower on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, might as fitly be described "A WINDOW LOOKING OUT INTO CANADA",

### CHAPTER III

IN Ottawa, unquestionably the greatest sight is the War Memorial Chamber, which has been constructed in the Peace Tower. The entrance is guarded by two stone lions, the one on the left bearing a shield upon which is carved a dragon symbolic of war, while on the other side a lion supports a shield bearing a dove and a crown, symbolic of peace. On entering, the first thing to be seen is the Altar of Remembrance, which is on a dais in the centre. At the left hand is the beginning of a series of tablets, seventeen in all, and upon fourteen of these is carved the story of the part taken by the Canadian forces in the Great War. The remaining three, each of which is in the centre of one of the three walls, are placed in a position under each of the three great windows on which appears suitable inscriptions. The stone of which the Memorial Chamber is constructed was obtained from France, Belgium and Great Britain. In the centre of the Chamber is placed the stone Altar of Remembrance, this being a gift of the Mother Country, Great Britain. On this is carved nine shields, on each of which appears the arms of one of the Provinces of Canada. On one end is carved the arms of the Dominion of Canada, and on the opposite end the Royal Arms of Great Britain. Around the edge at the top of this Altar is an inscription from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, the words of Valiant for Truth as he goes down to the river of Death: "My marks and scars I carry with me to be a witness for me that I have fought his battles who now will be my rewarder. So he passed over and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side." A glass cover is placed on

top of this altar which is surrounded by a bronze rail upon which is inscribed the celebrated passage from Ephesians, the sixth chapter : " Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." The various parts of the armour so described in the epistle to the Ephesians are shown on a series of enamelled shields placed on this bronze rail, these being : The Girdle of Truth, The Breast-Plate of Righteousness, The Sandals of Peace, The Shield of Faith, The Helmet of Salvation and The Sword of the Spirit. On the floor of the chamber are the names of various battle-fields. These are set in brass in the stone-work, which stone has all been brought from various fields of conflict : Ypres, Mount Sorrell, Somme, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens, Arras, Cambrai, Valenciennes, and Mons. The Altar will contain the completed roll of names of those who gave their lives with the Canadian forces.

Above the tablets which are placed on the walls are a series of carvings, each one indicating some phase of active service, and there are also carved around on the walls the various badges and crests of battalions and Canadian services which went overseas with the forces. The record commences with the representation of the convoy which was escorted by the British battleships and terminates with a soldier at a graveside taking a farewell before returning home. There are also shown the medals and decorations awarded to Canadians by the British and other governments, and different arms and services are also depicted in a similar manner. The sight of the roof is magnificent, being delicately carved, and all the work in the Hall is done by hand. Over the arch at the exit is an inscription : " All's well for over there among his peers a happy Warrior sleeps."

Suspended from the centre of this arch is a silver cross, a small copy of which is given to each woman who lost a son or husband with the Canadian Forces. Surmounting the arch is a figure emblematic of mother-



WAR MEMORIAL CHAMBER, IN PEACE TOWER,  
OTTAWA

hood, showing a mother with two children, and beneath that is carved the figure of the recording angel with pen and parchment, which figure is also attended by other two kneeling angels. There are also carved the arms of various cities in Canada through which men passed on enlisting or on discharge from the army. On the outside of the same arch is a carving to the memory of humbler creatures that also gave their lives on service in the war. These are the reindeer, mule, pigeons, horse, dog, canaries and mice.

## CHAPTER IV

IN the vicinity of the Parliament Buildings there are statues of individuals whose careers have had historic connections with Canada. Of first importance to Ottawa perhaps, is the statue of Queen Victoria, which is on a knoll to the west, and she must ever be associated with the City, as her selection elevated an obscure little town to become the Capital of the Dominion. Her Majesty is represented bearing a sceptre in her right hand and a scroll in her left. At the base is a female figure depositing a wreath, and a magnificent bronze lion, symbolic of Britain's power, is also part of the monument.

At the opposite end towards the east is a statue of Sir John A. Macdonald. In his day he was the most powerful political figure in Canada. His father came from Sutherlandshire in the north of Scotland and settled in the City of Glasgow. It was here that Sir John A. Macdonald was born in the year 1815. A few years after this he emigrated to Canada and settled in the Town of Kingston. He followed the study of law, and when seventeen years old was given charge of a law office at a place called Napanee. About this period Canada began to be stirred with the problem of self-government. A party of representatives from the different provinces gathered together to discuss this problem, which group is termed in Canadian history 'The Fathers of Confederation'. Unquestionably Macdonald was the leading figure in this coterie, and on establishment of the Federal Parliament in the year 1867, he became the first Prime Minister of the Dominion. It was under his ministry that the National Policy of Canada was formulated, and the Canadian Pacific Railway was also constructed



STATUE OF QUEEN VICTORIA, PARLIAMENT HILL,  
OTTAWA



during his term as premier. It is said that he could lead all men in Canada, with the exception of his great fellow-countryman, George Brown, who was the leader of the Liberal party, and thus opposed politically to Macdonald. The reconciliation between these two men, however, made confederation possible. Macdonald was knighted by Queen Victoria for his great services toward the development of government in Canada. He died in the year 1891, and is buried at Kingston, Ontario.

The other great figure of the Confederation period was George Brown, whose statue is to the north of the Parliament Buildings. He was a native of Alloa in Clackmannanshire, Scotland, and was educated in Edinburgh. When a young man, he emigrated with his father to America. Journalism interested him, and he followed this occupation and also established a newspaper intended to interest Scottish people in the United States and in Canada. A few years later he went to Toronto, and in this city founded the *Globe*, which was the leading periodical in Canada in the Liberal interest. Through the medium of the newspaper Brown became a powerful political figure. He studied 'Responsible Government', and was recognized as the leader of the Liberal party. As such there arose between him and Sir John A. Macdonald considerable antagonism. As time passed, the movement towards Confederation became very strong, and the great obstacle was the antipathy between the two party leaders. Reconciliation between these men was finally effected, and the event detracts nothing from either man. Each laid aside his differences, and self-government for Canada was established. It is possible that had Brown remained in the Commons he might have become in due course the Prime Minister, but his political career led him into the Senate Chamber. Brown met with a very tragic end; a man he had previously befriended and an employee of his newspaper, entered his office and drawing a revolver, shot him, and as a result, Brown died. He accomplished great work in the country of his adoption, and will ever be remembered as a journalist,

and philanthropist. This great statesman is buried in Riverdale Necropolis, Toronto.

A few yards away from the outer door of the parliamentary library there stands the statue of Thomas D'Arcy McGee. He was a native of Carlingford in Ireland, and was born in 1825. The family moved to Wexford in the year 1833, at which time his mother was killed. His early education was obtained at a local school, and in these days he gave definite evidence of his brilliance. Even as a lad he was an orator, and at sixteen years of age wrote verse. When seventeen years old he went with his sister to America, and in the City of Boston he became excited on a celebration on Independence Day, and the story is told that he jumped into an empty cart and made an oration. He followed the work of journalism and later returned to Ireland and pursued the same profession. Becoming involved in the politics of the period, the Rebellion of 1848, compelled him to seek refuge in America. His interest in the emigrants to America found him again active, and he went on an extensive lecture tour which took him into Canada, in which country he saw opportunities for Irish people. This exiled Irishman saw there a place where his dreams of freedom might be realized, and he was persuaded to cease his rebellious propaganda and by the power of his oratory he was elected a member of the Canadian House of Assembly. Confederation became his ideal, and he went through the country preaching this doctrine. Perhaps the greatest thing he accomplished was when his action resulted in the reconciliation of Sir John A. Macdonald and George Brown and induced them to shake hands and work towards the same end. This great political pioneer met with a tragic end, being shot by a fanatic one night when returning from Parliament in Ottawa.

Standing to the north of the Parliament Buildings there is a statue of Alexander Mackenzie. He was a native of Logierait, Perthshire, in Scotland, and was the son of a working carpenter. At a very early age he found employment at farming in his native locality, which was one of the most beautiful spots in the country, and a place cele-

brated for its historic memories. A few years later he was apprenticed to a stone cutter, and thus was able to assist his mother, who had been left a widow with seven children. Throughout his early life he obtained his education by attending the village school and also by studying books which must have been of a very profound nature. When about nineteen years of age he was employed in the construction of the railway at Ayrshire. About that period the chartist movement was very strong, it having developed after the Napoleonic Wars and although Mackenzie studied the movement, he never supported it, but was, nevertheless, radical in his views. His theological studies led him to join the Baptist Church in which denomination he remained throughout his life. Some friends of his having determined to go to Canada, young Mackenzie decided to go with them, and in due course he reached Kingston, Ontario. He found work at his trade of mason, and was disappointed to discover that the tools which he had brought with him were not quite suitable, and so he had to find other employment until able to purchase a new kit. Farming was his occupation for some time, which also had its disappointments. Returning to Kingston he was again back at stone cutting. As time advanced he became a building contractor, and during his career he never ceased to educate himself, and was able to take an active interest in the politics of the period. Journalism was also part of his activities and he was a supporter of George Brown the Liberal leader of that day. He is said to have been in some measure opposed to Confederation, but when it became accepted he gave the movement his unqualified support. Succeeding George Brown as party leader in Commons, he became Canada's second Prime Minister when the Liberals assumed office. As a debater he ranked very high, and had a reputation for constancy of purpose, which gained him the title of 'The Stainless Statesman'. Although offered knighthood on three occasions he declined the honour, and his career provided a great story of a working man who by self education raised himself to be the first citizen of Canada.

He died on the 17th day of April, 1892, and is buried in Lambton, Ontario.

At the north-east corner of Parliament Hill is a singular monument, showing two men side by side. One is Robert Baldwin, and the other Louis La Fontaine. This somewhat unusual monument recalls two coalition ministries organized by these two men. There was a time in Canada when much dissatisfaction was felt and as a result Lord Durham was sent out by the Imperial Government to investigate. Findings expressed in the Durham Report had its sequel in the Union Act of 1840, and provided for the union of Upper and Lower Canada, under one government, composed of a Governor, a Legislative Council and an Assembly. These are known as Ontario and Quebec, and an attempt was made thus to regain unity. Robert Baldwin was a native of Toronto and led the Reform Party of Upper Canada, while La Fontaine was similarly placed in Lower Canada. A joint ministry was formed by them in the year 1841. Both were advocates of responsible government which brought them into conflict with the Governor-General, and their resignation took place in 1843. As time advanced, however, they formed a second ministry in the year 1848, and accomplished much legislation during their joint term. The Rebellion Losses Bill and much important educational work in the control of railway services and development of the Canadian Canal System was included in their work. In 1851 Baldwin retired from political life, while his colleague, La Fontaine, became Chief Justice of Lower Canada and remained there until the year 1864. Their religions were perhaps a hindrance to some legislation, for Baldwin was a strong Anglican, and his colleague La Fontaine, a devout Roman Catholic. Their co-operation, however, in affairs of state must have been a strong factor for national amity in Canada.

Sir George Etienne Cartier, whose statue stands towards the north-east of the Parliament Buildings, was born at Richelieu, Quebec, in the year 1814. By birth and training he was strongly a French Canadian. He entered the pro-

fession of law, and as a young man supported the rebellion organized by Louis Joseph Papineau, as the result of which he was exiled to the United States of America. After the amnesty passed by the parliament, he returned to Montreal to work again at the legal profession. When thirty-five years of age he entered the United Parliament of Upper and Lower Canada, and was ever a zealous advocate for the preservation of the ideals of his own race. As time advanced he also supported the idea of a Federal Parliament, and he became one of the group termed "The Fathers of Confederation". In the first cabinet he became Minister of Militia and Defence and organized the military system which still survives in Canada. The need for railways and canals in Canada found in him a very strong advocate. With William McDougall he was later sent to Great Britain to conclude negotiations with the Hudson Bay Company, and purchased lands which had originally been ceded to that concern. It was while at a dinner in London given by William Gladstone, then Prime Minister of Britain, that Cartier made his much-quoted statement, "We French Canadians are British subjects like the others, but British subjects speaking French." He died in London on the 23rd day of May, 1873.

On a little eminence to the south-east of the east wing of the Parliament Buildings there stands a statue of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He was a native of St. Lin in Quebec, and the son of a land surveyor. When Sir Wilfrid was four years of age his mother died, and he was brought up by his step-mother, Odeline Ethier, a kind-hearted woman. His early education was obtained at an elementary school, and also at an academy about twenty miles from home. He is said to have spent much of his time with a Scotsman called Murray, a friend of his father, and took employment in this man's shop in which he had the opportunity to practise the English language. By his zeal in these early days he thus acquired a complete command of the English and French languages, which added to his prestige throughout Canada

in later years. He practised debate, and at the early age of twenty, went to Montreal to study law. In this he followed a course at McGill University, where he finally took his degree and was admitted to the bar in 1864. In the year 1871 he stood for Parliament and was elected for Drummond Arthabaska. His political career thus began, and he entered Alexander Machenzie's Cabinet, sometime after, as Minister of Inland Revenue. A by-election was thus necessary, and in this Laurier met defeat, but a seat was obtained in Quebec East and found him back again in Parliament. In the year 1896 the Liberal party assumed power, and then Laurier became prime minister, thus to become the most powerful man in Canada. His career was crowded with much important legislation and he represented Canada during the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in the year 1897. He was also knighted by the aged Queen and received other honours. He advocated reciprocity with the United States and gave trade preference to Britain and also to France. He expressed himself strongly as a supporter of British rule in Canada. In the year 1919 he died in the City of Ottawa, and so passed one who was undoubtedly the greatest of modern French Canadians.

## CHAPTER V

THE City may be said to date chiefly from the period when Canada became self-governing. There is not much that can be called very old. The view on the river crossing into Hull shows generally the great booms of lumber. A magnificent drive may be had around the City, and almost all the buildings may be seen with gardens, and a very pleasing spectacle is encountered in the parks and the vistas obtained along the canal. In the City the people going to and from their daily work are just as may be seen in any modern city, but one at times catches a glimpse of arresting spectacles. Sometimes there is encountered the figures of the Grey Nuns and these women in their long grey robes and white head-gear present a striking contrast to other denominations in Ottawa. There are also two monasteries and members of the Franciscan Order, and the Capuchin Order may be observed in the streets. It is quite an interesting spectacle to see the members of the Capuchin brothers wearing long brown robes about which is tied a girdle. They also wear a small round headdress, and as they never shave, are to be seen with very long beards. These men also wear sandals on their bare feet, and thus convey an almost mediaeval appearance in the City.

The Government Buildings form a considerable part of Ottawa, and provide employment for people in the Civil Service of Canada. There are also various legations, and the residence of the Papal Representative is there. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are always on duty in the Government Buildings.

A national Research Building is an institution for the study of scientific problems, and a peculiar thing is to be

seen on entering the main doorway. Above the steps on entering there is a representation which is obviously an astronomical chart. The National Gallery and Museum are presently under the same roof; the National Gallery having been founded by the Marquis of Lorne in the year 1880 when he was Governor General, and is for the development of Art in Canada.

The Archives Buildings contain many treasures of an historic nature. Next to this is the Mint, where the coinage of Canada is struck. It is interesting to note that all the metal used in the manufacturing of Canadian coinage is obtained within Canada. It is a grey building presenting a military appearance in its construction or, as is sometimes alleged, bears a strong resemblance to what may be expected of a prison.

An experimental farm is laid out within the City limits and its purpose is to disseminate information which would be of value to farmers. The produce of the soil and all manner of livestock are subject to careful study on a scientific basis, and knowledge thus obtained is submitted throughout Canada.

In these grounds there is also an observatory where much scientific work is performed. An exhibition which is held annually in the Capital is laid out within the City, and so trade is promoted.

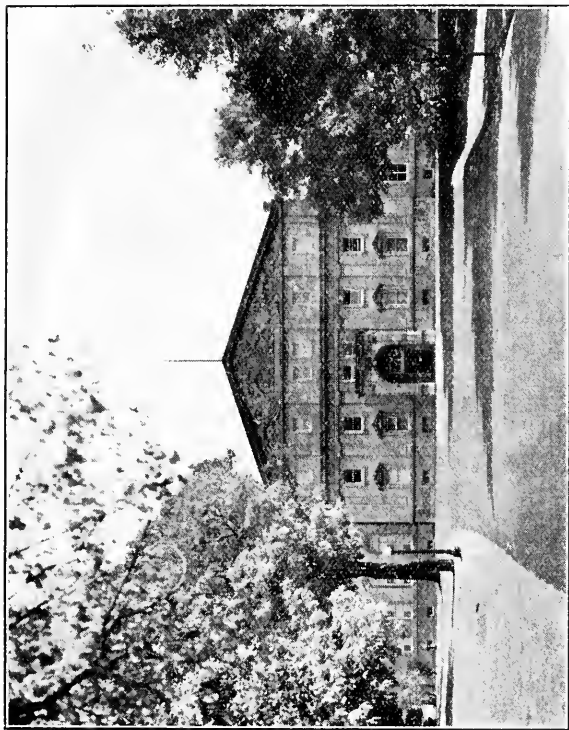
The Bytown museum is a small building which contains much of an historic nature.

Rideau Hall, at Rockcliffe, is the official residence of the Governor General of Canada.

The first Prime Minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald, had a residence called Earnscliffe, and this house is now occupied by the High Commissioner from Great Britain to Canada. Laurier House, which was the residence of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, is another sight that engages attention. It was donated by this great Canadian Statesman to be the permanent residence for the Liberal leader.

Perhaps one of the most striking features of the City is the absence of factories and similar places of employment.





RIDEAU HALL, OTTAWA  
Residence of Governor General of Canada

Being the Capital, many of the inhabitants are engaged in the Government work, and city noises are in a large measure absent. Great public buildings of the various Government departments are visible, mostly in the vicinity of Parliament Hill.

Up towards this ascent in the night, the clustered lamps in long-like chains brighten the City streets. From the crest of the hill overlooking the river the lights may be seen from both sides shining over the waters of the Ottawa that flow to a yet greater stream which bears the nation's commerce to the sea. The Peace Tower, bathed in floodlights, stands out against the darkness, and from above, the great bell of the carillon booms across the city and night covers OTTAWA THE CAPITAL.





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